

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3054

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PINS, PINT, PO, US

SUBJ: INITIAL GOP REACTION TO AZORES EVENTS

REF: LISBON 3216

SUMMARY: INITIAL GOP REACTION TO WEEKEND EVENTS IN AZORES
THUS FAR HAS BEEN MUTED. LISBON PRESS TREATMENT HAS BEEN
UNEVEN BUT OUTLINES OF CONSPIRATORIAL THEMES ARE BEING
ADUMBRATED. GOP CONTINUES TO DOWN-PLAY SUBJECT, WHILE
REITERATING THAT SITUATION IS UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL.
AZORES EVENTS, HOWEVER, WILL ADD ANOTHER ELEMENT TO
ALREADY DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION. ALLEGATIONS OF
U.S. INVOLVEMENT ARE FEW THUS FAR, BUT THAT COULD CHANGE. END
SUMMARY

1. LISBON PRESS TREATMENT ON JUNE 7 OF AZORES EVENTS WAS
REASONABLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, AS INDICATED IN ASSESSMENT OF
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MORNING PRESS (REFTEL). SOCIALIST-LEANING "JORNAL NOVO"

COMMENTED ON TIES BETWEEN SEPARATISTS AND UNITED STATES, RECALLING STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AZOREAN BASE AND PRESENCE IN U.S. OF SIZEABLE AZOREAN COLONY. INDEPENDENT LEFTIST "CAPITAL" SIMILARLY REFERRED IN PASSING TO "REACTIONARY" AZOREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS AND THEIR TIES TO "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." JUNE 7 "SECULO," "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS," AND "DIARIO DE LISBOA" (ALL MORE-OR-LESS UNDER PCP CONTROL) CARRIED NEWS ACCOUNTS WITHOUT ATTEMPTS AT INTERPRETATION.

2. TREATMENT IN MORNING PRESS JUNE 9 WAS MIXED. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" HAD SHORT ARTICLE ON BACK PAGE SAYING SIMPLY THAT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. "SECULO" DEVOTED HALF OF INNER PAGE TO THREE ARTICLES MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:
A. PONTA DELGADA FARMERS' DEMONSTRATION WAS WORK OF LARGE LANDHOLDERS, SUPPORTED BY CENTRO DEMOCRATICO SOCIAL (CDS), PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD) AND SOCIALISTS (PS);
B. DEMONSTRATION HAD SUPPORT OF AZORES MILITARY AUTHORITIES (INCLUDING MILITARY GOVERNOR ALTINO PINTO DE MAGALHAES) AND OF PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (PSP);
C. PONTA DELGADA REACTIONARIES PERSECUTED "PROGRESSIVE" MILITANTS, INJURING SOME AND BOMBING LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF PCP-LINING MDP;
D. PONTA DELGADA EVENTS TOOK PLACE WITHIN "MORE GENERAL PROJECT OF (FORCES OF) REACTION;"
E. WHAT IS NECESSARY NOW IS PURGE OF AZORES CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND IMPRISONMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMONSTRATION.

3. WEEKLY PCP-DOMINATED "SEMPRE FIXE" PUBLISHED "LETTER TO EDITOR" DENOUNCING, AMONG OTHERS, NOTED AZOREAN PPD DEPUTY, AND FORMER LEADER GRANTEE JOAO BOSCO MOTA AMARA). LETTER ALSO REFERRED TO PONTA DELGADA VICE CONSUL MARK PARRIS, AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI, AND DCM OKUN.

4. GOP HAS THUS FAR REACTED TO AZORES EVENTS OF PAST WEEKEND IN MUTED MANNER. THIS SUGGESTS:
--GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DEAL SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SEVERAL CRISIS SITUATIONS (AZORES ON TOP OF ANGOLA AND "REPUBLICA" AFFAIR) IS LIMITED.
--MILITARY GOVERNOR MAGALHAES, WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER CANTO E CASTRO ON SCENE, WAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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LATITUDE IN RESPONDING TO SITUATION.

5. MAJOR CANTO E CASTRO, WHO RETURNED TO LISBON MORNING JUNE 9, HAS DECLINED COMMENT "PENDING MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL." FORMER AZORES CIVIL GOVERNOR BORGES COUTINHO (MDP) WHO RETURNED ON SAME PLANE WITH CANTO E CASTRO HAS ADDED FUEL TO DEVELOPING CONSPIRATORIAL THEMES. HE

TOLD PRESS UPON ARRIVAL THAT EVENTS WERE PART OF "REACTIONARY
MANEUVER ON A GRAND SCALE."

6. THE DEVELOPING RADICAL LEFTIST LINE IS BECOMING APPARENT.

IT CONTAINS THREE PRINCIPAL THEMES:

--AZOREAN FARMERS AND WORKERS HAVE LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS WHICH
SHOULD BE REDRESSED;

--REACTIONARY FORCES, INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER
FORCES, HAVE MANIPULATED COMPLAINTS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES;

--MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON AZORES BY TAKING CONCILIATORY LINE,
HAVE AIDED AND ABETTED COUNTER REVOLUTIONARIES.

(MILITARY GOVERNOR MAGALHAES SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED.)

--FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED TO ROOT OUT COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES AND EXPOSE THEIR ACCOMPLICES.

7. ALLEGATIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT THUS FAR HAVE BEEN
FEW. BUT AFTERNOON DAILY JORNAL NOVO HAS PICKED UP
STORY OF DETENTION OF U.S. CONSULATE EMPLOYEE VICTOR
CRUZ (SEE PONTA DELGADA SEPTTEL). ARTICLE REPORTS FRENCH
CONSUL (HONORARY) IN PONTA DELGADA ALSO DETAINED. WE
ANTICIPATE CRUZ DETENTION AND HIS U.S. CONNECTION WILL
BE EXPLOITED IN BUILDING CONSPIRACY THEME.
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